

Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan and EIR

Primer for review of the Preliminary General Plan/ Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft EIR/EIS (July 2019) and Final EIR/EIS (June 2020).

Following public release of the Preliminary General Plan/ Draft Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in July 2019, California State Parks staff made revisions to the GP/RMP. In addition, a Final EIR/EIS was prepared in compliance with the under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed changes to the Preliminary General Plan are summarized in the Final EIR/EIS and will be reflected in a future final document (Auburn State Recreation Area Final General Plan/ Resource Management Plan). In order to capture any additional changes that may be directed by staff or Commissioners at the September 30th hearing, the final document is not produced until after adoption of the resolution by the Commission to approve the General Plan and certify the EIR. This primer provides a brief summary of the existing documents, future documents, the revisions to the General Plan/ Resource Management Plan, and where to find a description of these revisions in the Final EIR/EIS.

ASRA General Plan/ Resource Management Plan and EIR/EIS Timeline

The timeline for preparation of the GP/RMP and EIR/EIS is:

- The CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the General Plan and EIR was circulated to the public and appropriate federal, state, and local agencies on November 29, 2017.
- The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR was released on July 19, 2019.
- The Final EIR was prepared published on June 26, 2020.
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation signed a Record of Decision for the EIS and adopted the Resource Management Plan on August 21, 2020.
- Commission hearing for approval of the General Plan and certification of the EIR is scheduled for September 30th, 2021 [To come]
- The Final GP/RMP will be published following the Commission hearing [To come]

Content of the Preliminary General Plan/ Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft EIR/EIS (July 2019)

The Preliminary General Plan/Draft Resource Management Plan and the Draft EIR/EIS were created as separate companion documents and released to the public at the same time in July 2019.

The Preliminary GP/RMP consists of the following:

0. Executive Summary
1. Introduction
2. Existing Conditions
3. Issues and Analysis
4. The Plans

5. References
6. Report Preparers

To be consistent with NEPA requirements as well as CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft EIR/EIS was circulated as a separate document from the Preliminary GP/Draft RMP. The Draft EIR/EIS consists of the following:

0. Executive Summary
1. Introduction and Approach
2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis
4. Environmental Consequences and Mitigation
5. Other CEQA and NEPA Requirements
6. References
7. Report Preparers
8. Distribution List

On July 19, 2019, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released the Draft EIR for public review and comment for a 61-day period ending September 17, 2019. A public information open house was held on August 15, 2019, in the Northside Elementary School in Cool, CA to receive input from agencies and the public on the GP/RMP and Draft EIR/EIS.

Content of the Final EIR/EIS (June 2020)

The Final EIR/EIS document consists of the following:

1. Introduction
2. Revisions to the Preliminary GP and Draft RMP
3. Comments and Responses
4. Revisions to the Draft EIR/EIS
5. References
6. Report Preparers
7. Index

Per CEQA and NEPA, a Final EIR/EIS was prepared to respond to comments received on the Preliminary GP/RMP and Draft EIR /EIS and to present corrections, revisions, and other clarifications in response to these comments and as a result of the ongoing planning efforts. The Final EIR/EIS contains comments received on the ASRA Preliminary GP/RMP and Draft EIR/EIS during the public review period and responses to those comments. State Parks received 368 comment letters on the Preliminary GP/RMP and Draft EIR/EIS, including letters from public agencies (16), organizations (15), individuals (256), and form letters signed by multiple commenters (4). Chapter 3 of the Final EIR/EIS includes the comments and written responses to the comments. The responses to comments resulted in changes to the Preliminary GP/RMP, which are described in Chapter 2. The responses to comments also resulted in revisions and corrections to the Draft EIR/EIS, which are described in Chapter 4.

To get an understanding of the differences between the Preliminary and Final GP/RMP, it is recommended to read the Final EIR/EIS Chapter 2, “Revisions to the Preliminary GP and Draft RMP.” In Chapter 2, changes in the text are signified by ~~strikeouts~~ where text is removed and by underline where text is added. As noted in Final EIR/EIS Chapter 2, changes to the Preliminary GP/RMP initiated by CSP include a number of clarifications that make explicit standard processes or approaches that are implemented by State Parks and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or provide additional details on environmental protection measures included in the Preliminary GP/RMP. These clarifications include:

- a new Goal FAC 9 and Guideline FAC 9.1 that describe the comprehensive planning process that would occur prior to the development of any new or expanded facilities;
- a new Guideline RES 9.7 that describes the site-specific assessment that State Parks would perform to determine if campfires would be allowed at individual new campsites and describes site-specific campfire management options; and
- a new Guideline RES 7.2 that describes how best practices for the protection of Tribal Cultural Resources would be implemented in coordination with California Native American Tribal groups.

In addition, changes to the Preliminary GP/RMP include a proposed reduction in the total number of new campsites allowed in ASRA from 224 sites (220 individual sites and four group sites) to 142 sites (135 individual site and seven group sites), as summarized in Table 2-1 in the Final EIR/EIS:

Management Zone	Existing Number of Campsites	New Campsites Originally Proposed in the GP/RMP	Revised Number of New Campsites in the GP/RMP
Knickerbocker	0	50 individual	50 individual
		3 group	3 group
Auburn Interface	0	50 individual	25 individual
		0 group	3 group
Lake Clementine	15 individual	0	0
Foresthill Divide	0	20 individual	0
Mammoth Bar	0	50 individual	15 individual
Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky (Cherokee Bar)		20 individual	15 individual
		1 group	1 group
Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky (Ruck-a-Chucky)	5 individual	10 individual	10 individual
Mineral Bar	16 individual	20 individual	20 individual
Total New Individual Sites	—	220	135
Total New Group Sites	—	4	7
Total Existing Sites	36	—	—
Total Campsites (New + Existing)	—	260	178

The map below shows the location of the Management Zones proposed in the Preliminary GP/RMP, which are references in Table 2-1.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Record of Decision (August 2020)

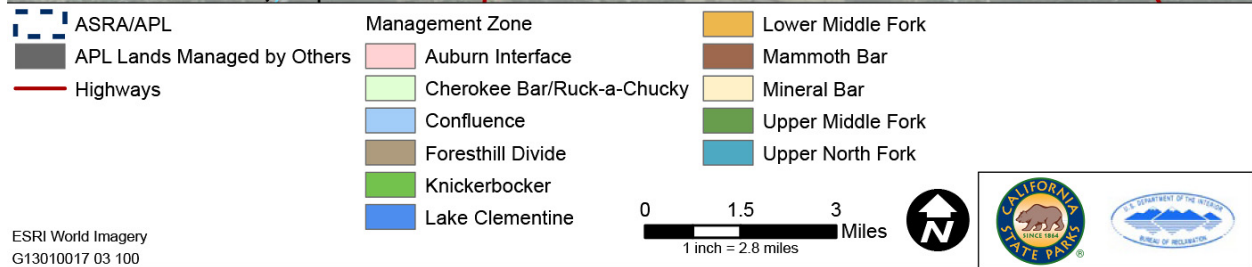
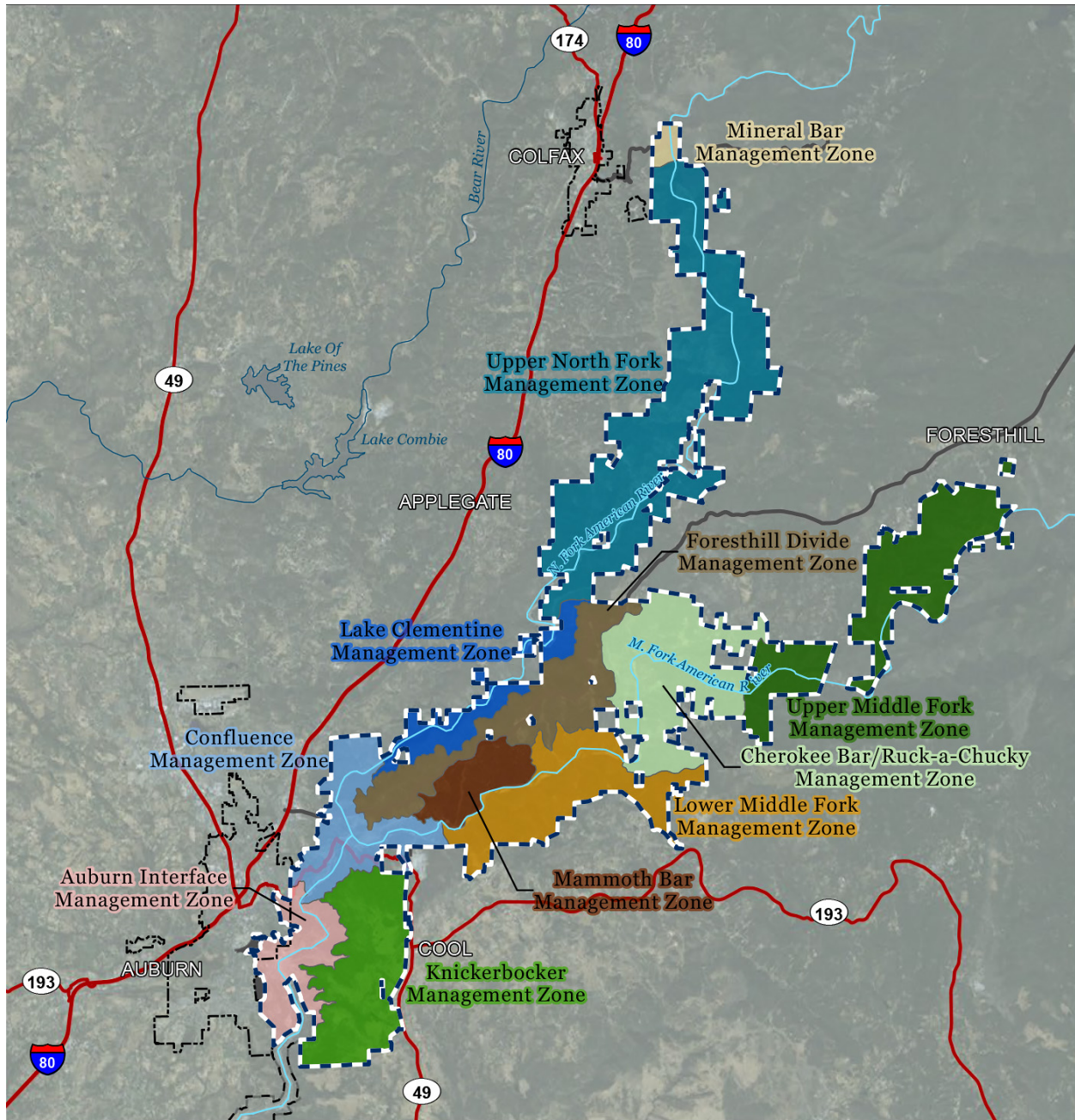
Following the release of the Final EIR/EIS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation prepared and signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Auburn SRA GP/RMP EIS on August 21, 2020. Through the ROD, Reclamation adopted Alternative 2, the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Resource Management Plan, as revised in the Final EIR/EIS. The federal decision process and NEPA documentation for the project are complete. If any changes to the General Plan, as revised in the Final EIR/EIS, are made through the State Park and Recreation Commission decision process, these additional changes would need to be routed through Reclamation for their review and approval as well.

Next Steps

The Final EIR/EIS and the Draft EIR/EIS together constitute the EIR/EIS, which will be considered by State Parks for certification before a decision as to whether to adopt the General Plan. State Parks is required by the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15090) to certify that the EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA, was reviewed and considered by State Parks decision makers, and reflects State Park's independent judgment and analysis before approving the General Plan. State Parks would adopt findings of fact on the disposition of each significant environmental impact, if any were determined to occur, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a); however, no significant environmental effects have been identified in the EIR. Because the Draft EIR found that no significant and unavoidable impacts would occur, a statement of overriding considerations is also not needed. Similarly, because no mitigation measures were identified or necessary to reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d), is not needed. As noted above, if any additional changes to the General Plan/Resource Management Plan were made through the State Park and Recreation Commission process, these additional changes would need to be reviewed and adopted by Reclamation through their decision process before becoming final.

Content of the Final General Plan and Resource Management Plan [To come]

This document will include a revised reprint of the July 2019 document along with a copy of the Resolution approving the General Plan and certifying the EIR inserted into the front of the document. The Final ASRA Final General Plan and EIR will look the same as the July 2019 Preliminary Plan, except text will be revised as shown in Chapter 2 of the June 2020 Final EIR/EIS.



Proposed Management Zones in ASRA